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Around the Nation

ACLU Files Suit in CIA Mail Opening

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Thirty present or former officials of the Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies yesterday were accused in a class-action suit of illegally opening mail.

The suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in U.S. District Court here alleges that officials of the CIA, the FBI and the Postal Service opened the first-class mail of plaintiff Rodney Driver and other Americans.

Driver, a University of Rhode Island mathematics professor, said three letters he sent to mathematicians in the Soviet Union were opened and copied.

The Rockefeller commission, which investigated CIA activities, reported in June that the agency opened some mail to or from the Soviet Union from 1952 to 1973.

The suit asks the court to order compensatory damages of \$20,000 for each letter opened and read by the CIA and punitive damages of \$100,000 for each person whose mail was opened.

Among those named in the suit are former CIA officials Richard M. Helms and James R. Schlesinger, former FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, and former Postal Service officials Lawrence F. O'Brien and Winton M. Blount.

Hunts Blame CIA

DALLAS—Two sons of the late billionaire H. L. Hunt, claiming they were discriminated against because of their conservative views, charged that the Central Intelligence Agency infiltrated the family oil empire and used secret agents to help embezzle more than \$50 million from them.

The brothers said federal charges

that they tried to cover up a family wiretapping scheme also were a result of a CIA attempt to discredit the Hunt oil empire. Nelson Bunker Hunt and W. Herbert Hunt said they held the CIA responsible for earlier federal charges that they spied on aides of their late father.

The brothers said their refusal to allow the CIA to use their overseas Hunt Oil Co. affiliate for espionage led to the federal charges against them.

A federal grand jury Monday charged the Hunt brothers, criminal lawyer Percy Foreman of Houston, three other attorneys and a retired Texas industrialist with obstruction of justice for allegedly trying to thwart the wiretap investigation. The indictment charged that the men conspired to pay witnesses to go to prison to silence testimony about the wiretapping.

They are scheduled to go on trial Sept. 15 in Lubbock, Tex. A hearing scheduled Thursday was canceled at the request of Hunt defense attorney John Shapiro, who said motions would be filed on claims that the government made a deal with his clients not to prosecute them and on claims the government was discriminating against the Hunts.

UPS Explosion

NEW YORK—Police said they believe a blast that injured 17 workers in a United Parcel Service terminal Monday night was caused by a chemical and not by a bomb.

The substance, which had been commercially shipped, was tentatively identified as methyl nitrate, authorities said.

No clues have been found at the scene to indicate a bomb was involved. However, authorities found a package,

which contained a chemical, believed to be similar to one that might have caused the explosion.

Coors' Back Taxes

DENVER — The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the Adolph Coors Co. owes \$5.1 million in back taxes for understating income in 1963 and 1966.

The court affirmed a federal tax court ruling against the Golden, Colo., brewery and said Coors did not prove errors it claimed were made by the Internal Revenue Service in computing the back taxes.

The court said Coors had deducted construction costs from its capital assets for two years, resulting in understatements of income.

Treasury Office Bombing

SAN FRANCISCO — An underground guerrilla group claimed responsibility for causing \$250,000 in damage in a bombing Monday night at the offices here of the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Treasury Department.

A group calling itself the "Red Guerrilla Family" claimed responsibility for the blast, in which four persons were injured, none seriously.

The terrorist group said the action was in response to the slaying of a prison reform activist the group said Treasury agents killed.

"We take this action in response to the pig murder of Popeye Jackson," the terrorists said in a note police found in a telephone booth near the bombed office.

Wilbur (Popeye) Jackson, leader of the United Prisoner's Union, and a female companion were shot and killed in June by an unknown gunman.

From staff reports and news dispatches

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